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Governor

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Indiana State Department of Health
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Vaccine E-Letter # 234

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www.statehealth.in.gov/programs/immunization.htm

In this issue: Pg.

Vaccine Management Business Improvement Plan

Indiana will be one of the first states to transition to a new system for the distribution of publicly purchased vaccine. This process, called the Vaccine Management Business Improvement Plan (VMBIP), has been progressing for several years. Under the new system, states will no longer be responsible for the storage and distribution of publicly purchased vaccine. Instead, national warehouses have been established that will store and ship vaccines to all VFC and public immunization providers. One advantage of this system is that "spot shortages" should be avoided since states will not have individual stockpiles of vaccine. Instead, all provider orders will be drawn down from large national stockpiles.

Indiana VFC providers will not see a significant change in the way that they place orders. VFC vaccines order forms will essentially remain the same and be submitted in the same way. The only significant change will be that all providers will be assigned either a monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly ordering cycle. You will be notified in an upcoming mailing regarding your new vaccine ordering schedule.

Because of the transition period, we ask that only **emergency orders** be submitted for the week of April 23 to 27. You may begin submitting your May orders on April 30th. Please be aware that May orders cannot be processed until May 14th because of the migration to new ordering software.

You will soon be receiving a package of information in the mail with additional information concerning the VMBIP process. We anticipate that all existing orders and backorders will by processed by May 2nd. Questions concerning the changes to the VFC vaccine ordering system should be submitted to Immunize@isdh.in.gov.

FDA Approves Accelerated Dosing Schedule For Twinrix

On March 28, FDA approved an accelerated dosing schedule for Twinrix [Hepatitis A (Inactivated) and Hepatitis B (Recombinant) Vaccine, GSK]. The schedule consists of three doses given within three weeks followed by a booster dose at 12 months (0, 7, 21–30 days, 12 months).

The accelerated schedule could benefit individuals traveling to high-risk areas; emergency responders, especially those being deployed to disaster areas overseas; and others who are at risk for hepatitis A and B infection.

To read the FDA product approval information, go to:

http://www.fda.gov/cber/products/hahbgsk032807.htm

To read the package insert, go to:

http://www.fda.gov/cber/label/hahbgsk032807LB.pdf

Registration For The ISDH Public Health Nurse Conference Has Been Closed.

Due to overwhelming interest, the ISDH has closed registration at 132 participants (room capacity). Those who still wish to attend may contact Trish Manuel at **317.234.2812 e-mail at tmanuel@isdh.in.gov** and have your name placed on a waiting list. You will be contacted if a space becomes available. If you have already registered, **please** contact Trish as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration so we may allow those on the waiting list to attend. We apologize for any inconvenience.

CDC Publishes Recommendations For Animal Rabies Prevention And Control

CDC published "Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2007: National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. (NASPHV)" in the April 6 issue of MMWR Recommendations and Reports. The introductory paragraphs are reprinted below.

Rabies is a fatal viral zoonosis and a serious public health problem. The disease is an acute progressive encephalitis caused by a lyssavirus. Multiple viral variants are maintained in wild mammal populations in the United States, but all mammals are believed to be susceptible to the disease. For purposes of this document, use of the term "animal" refers to mammals.

The recommendations in this compendium serve as a basis for animal rabies-prevention and -control programs throughout the United States and facilitate standardization of procedures among jurisdictions, thereby contributing to an effective national rabies-control program. This document is reviewed annually and revised as necessary. These recommendations do not supersede state and local laws or requirements. Principles of rabies prevention and control are detailed in Part I; recommendations for parenteral vaccination procedures are presented in Part II, and all animal rabies vaccines licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and marketed in the United States are listed in Part III.

To obtain a web-text (HTML) version of the recommendations online, go to:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5603a1.htm

To obtain a ready-to-copy (PDF) version, go to:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5603.pdf

ISDH Labs Have Moved

The Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories have moved from the former Barnhill Drive location to a new location:

Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories
550W. 16th Street, Suite B
Indianapolis, IN 46202

The Virology/Immunology Request Form that accompanies specimens may still reference the former address. Because many providers submit specimens for vaccine preventable disease testing, we wanted to make sure you are aware of the change. If you need a form, please contact the lab at 317.921.5500 and request a copy.